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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 283  
By Briley

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Marcus Jay Horton on winning the 2001 TSSAA Wrestling Heavyweight Class Championship.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as fine examples of the quality of this State's populace; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Jay Horton of Stratford High School is one such noteworthy citizen who has attained an unparalleled measure of athletic success; he recently won the TSSAA State Championship in the Heavyweight Class of Wrestling; and

WHEREAS, The championship was the highlight of an undefeated season for Marcus, as he was the only Metro wrestler to capture a State title in 2001; and

WHEREAS, This talented athlete became the first Stratford wrestler to win a championship since 1999; his outstanding season earned him the opportunity to attend the prestigious National High School Coaches Association Seniors Wrestling Championship; and

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WHEREAS, Marcus also excelled on the gridiron where he utilized his incredible strength and agility as a star Fullback and Linebacker for Stratford High; and

WHEREAS, His athletic accomplishments aside, Marcus Jay Horton is a dedicated student who holds a 3.3 grade point average in his core coursework; and

WHEREAS, Marcus is a member of the Beta Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Future Teachers of America, the Students Taking a Right Stand, and the Empowerment Club; a talented Thespian, he has starred in school drama productions, and has twice represented Stratford High School on nationally televised events on Channel One; and

WHEREAS, Marcus is highly respected as a leader among his peers; he has served on the Student Council Executive Board and the Principal's Student Advisory Committee, and he has visited elementary schools to encourage youth to remain drug and alcohol free; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional young leader has also been the Captain of his football and wrestling teams for the past two years; the need for his leadership abilities was most important during the past wrestling season as the team dealt with the tragic loss of their Co-Captain Jay Johnson III; largely due to Marcus' maturity and understanding, the team drew even closer together after the tragedy, and Marcus dedicated his season and championship to Jay's memory; and

WHEREAS, This tremendous champion drew strength from the support of his teammates, and he received vital encouragement from his Coach, Terry E. Riggans; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Jay Horton epitomizes the spirit and commitment which are vital in achieving success and which are also characteristic of a true Tennessean; the talent and determination exhibited by this young man surely bodes well for his future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Marcus' dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor Marcus Jay Horton for his outstanding wrestling season and join with his family, friends, and teachers in celebrating his State Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to him our best wishes for much happiness and every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.